

Bacteriology Dept.

October 7, 1957

Dear Hilary: *Hopkins*

I just thought I owed you a note of thanks for your initiating our correspondence with Khanolkar. We are just completing final preparations for a two week visit in India at Dr. Bhabha's invitation. We had the opportunity of splitting our time at other points en route, but thought it better to concentrate. We shall have to see the swimming pool at the Institut Pasteur, Teheran, and the sights of Bangkok some other time. But if you have any thoughts to offer about Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay, do let us hear from you.

We have been having a fairly interesting time here, though it does not take us too long to wish we were also back home in our familiar routine. On the way over, we had a specially stimulating couple of days in Fiji, as guests with Roy Edmonds, who runs the 'Central Medical School' in Suva for native medical practitioners all over the Pacific.

Here in Melbourne I've been lecturing, but spending most of my time here with Burnet-- principally on developing more precise selective methods for the analysis of genetic recombinants. This has given me at least a taste of the methodology of the flu virus, and it is quite obvious that many possible approaches have not yet been exhausted. There is no question at all about the reality of recombination & in fact, I suspect there is an even more conventional system of linear linkage than Burnet himself is willing to admit.

I am anxious to visit with you again sometime; unfortunately not this trip--we'll be far too rushed. But I'll be in NY for a Harvey lecture Dec. 19 and perhaps can see you there, or better still I'll be spending a few days at Haverford College in mid-March and will try to make a ~~xxxx~~ real point of it. Have you done anything about the scheme of extramural consultants? Have you lined up anyone vice Klein?

You'll be interested that Burnet is veering very strongly away from flu work these days, and into problems of antibody synthesis, cellular individuality etc. He had a rather elaborate scheme all setup some weeks ago, and found it paralleled in the review by Talmage in the 1957 Ann Rev Medicine--but everyone here talks about nothing but individuated clones, subject to natural selection, as the mechanism of the antibody response.

Best wishes,